

## Challenges for Change Proposal: Regional Integration of CDD Services

### EMERGING AGREEMENTS

#### I. Mandate and Scope

**Original Framing of Mandate:** *Consider the full integration of child development services administered by CDD into one agency in each AHS Region. Specifically Parent Child Centers base grants, Children's Integrated Services (CIS), and BBF Direct Services grants and make recommendations regarding this proposal.*

**Clarified Mandate:** *Consider **administrative consolidation**<sup>1</sup> of identified child development services (Parent Child Centers' base grants, Children's Integrated Services (CIS), and BBF Direct Services grants) and make recommendations regarding this proposal.*

#### II. Shared Goals and Principles

##### *Overarching Goals for CDD Administered Direct Services to Children and Families*

- Use of a systems approach when considering changes
- Equal access and opportunities for children and families regardless of where they live
- Consistency in purpose and practice across all AHS regions based on shared mission
- Improved access and accountability
- Reduced redundancies and increased administrative efficiencies for CDD, partners and their subcontractors that result in increased resources and services to children and families
- Increased access to services and quality in services as evidenced by families' satisfaction, goal attainment, and appropriateness of service
- Utilize a "therapeutic dose"<sup>2</sup> – a sufficient level of service to produce the desired outcome
- Greater integration across CDD services and partnerships resulting in better coordination of services for families and children
- Focus on data driven policy development and utilization of best practices in program design and service delivery
- Mutual accountability for outcomes

##### *Guiding Values, Principles and Beliefs:*<sup>3</sup>

- High quality, child and family centered services that improve outcomes for children and families is the highest priority;
- Efficient use of available resources requires developing a coordinated system that decreases administrative costs and burdens while increasing most effective use of resources to make real gains;

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<sup>1</sup> Full description of "administrative consolidation" can be found in meeting notes

<sup>2</sup> Per Shonkoff

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from CDD Overview

- Collaboration and coordination among community partners can improve direct services to children and families while containing costs and retaining locally designed responses that address identified needs and priorities;
- The allocation of state and federal resources across Vermont needs to be fair and equitable – all of Vermont’s children and families deserve equal access to opportunities and resources;
- Investments in improving the quality of services are essential;
- Prevention is a primary strategy; and
- Effective service delivery depends on successful partnerships with community service providers.

### III. Alternate Proposal

The stakeholder group recommends the following proposal as an alternate to the original Challenges for Change strategy related to the integration of the following child development services: *Parent Child Centers base grants, Children’s Integrated Services (CIS), and BBF Direct Services grants.*

#### ***Parent Child Centers base grants***

CDD will continue to distribute Parent Child Center base grants and Learning Together funds to established Parent Child Centers across Vermont, working with the Parent Child Center Network to establish shared outcomes and provide accountability, oversight and technical assistance.

#### ***Children’s Integrated Services (CIS)***

Children’s Integrated Services (CIS) – Early Intervention, Nursing and Family Support, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, and Specialized Child Care Services – will be fully integrated in every AHS region around the common purpose of ensuring that every child, every pregnant woman, and every family with young children in Vermont experiencing adversity will have early, timely and highly skilled interventions to ensure that they have an opportunity to succeed.

Stakeholders agreed that the following timeline and phased approach was reasonable.

- Phase I: 3 Regions (Rutland, Lamoille, and Franklin/Grand Isle) completed integration by 11.1.10
- Phase II: Additional willing and ready Regions will begin on 3.10.11
- Phase III: All remaining regions will begin integration by 7.1.11
- Phase IV: All regions will be integrated no later than 1.1.2012

Evaluation of the process and impact will be documented and shared throughout the implementation process. CDD will support an on-going mechanism to share learning among regions.

#### ***BBF Direct Services grants***

CDD will develop a transition plan to consolidate BBF Direct Services Funds into BBF Statewide Advisory Council grant indicating that these are designated as direct service funds for regions and allow the BBF Statewide Council and Regional Councils to agree on distribution, use of and accountability for these regional grants. The transition plan will address the following elements: oversight, accountability, consistency and assurance that there will be no decrease in direct service funding to pay for administrative costs associated with oversight and management of these funds.